

D-753
Galestown United Methodist Church
Galestown
1879-80
Public worship

One of the most distinctive buildings to survive in this creek-side village is the Galestown United Methodist Church, erected in 1879-80 on the site of an older structure erected around 1854. The 1879 church is a large single-story gable-front frame building featuring colored glass sanctuary windows and a rooftop belfry incorporated in a pyramidal roofed tower. The cornice of the tower roof is enhanced with a series of factory-made brackets. Accompanying the church on the lot is its cemetery with burials dating back to the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

The ¼-acre lot on which the church stands was conveyed in an 1854 transfer by Joseph H. Bell and his wife Sarah to trustees, John Collins, James T. Wallace, Jonathan Vaughn, James K. Wheatley, and Thomas Truitt for a "*House that is now built thereon as a place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*" The new church erected in 1879-80 was dedicated in February 1880, the service for which was mentioned in a letter between George E. Wheatley and Irvin S. R. Wheatley, which stated that "they have dedicated the new church at Galestown, they have the bell on it." George Wheatley's letter also stated the sad news that the first funeral had been held in the church the same month.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-753

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Galestown M. E. Church
other Galestown United Methodist Church

2. Location

street and number Galestown Road not for publication
city, town Galestown vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Galestown United Methodist Church
street and number M. E. Conference telephone
city, town Seaford state DE zip code 19973

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber FGH 3 folio 64
city, town Cambridge tax map 36 tax parcel 96 tax ID number 01-010204

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-753

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Galestown United Methodist Church is located on the east side of Galestown Road in the village of Galestown, Dorchester County, Maryland. The single-story gable front frame structure faces west with the roof oriented on an east/west axis. Built in 1879-80, the single-story frame church is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery flank the church on its north side.

Built in 1879 and dedicated on February 1, 1880,¹ the single-story rectangular frame church is supported on a low continuous brick foundation, and the original weatherboard exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. Rising from the steeply pitched asphalt roof is a tower that incorporates a belfry. The sides of the belfry are open and the tower is covered by a pyramidal roof embellished with sawn eave brackets.

The west (main) façade is pierced by a center double door entrance. The doors have been replaced. Flanking the entrance are neoclassical pilasters that rise to a bracketed Victorian cornice that is fixed atop a paneled transom over the doors. Piercing the upper gable end is a small round window of colored glass. The eaves to the edge of the roof are extended with closed soffits.

The north and south side of the church are marked by three four-over-four sash windows of amber glass. Fixed atop each window opening is a crown molding. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice.

The rear (east) wall is defined by a shorter gable roofed apse that is not pierced by any window openings.

The interior was remodeled during the mid 1960s.

A nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery joins the church on the village lot.

¹ E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, The Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948, p. 306.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-753

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates February 1, 1880 (Dedication) **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates 1879-80

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

One of the most distinctive buildings to survive in this creek-sited village is the Galestown United Methodist Church, erected in 1879-80 on the site of an older structure erected around 1855. The 1879 church is a single story gable-front frame structure featuring colored glass windows and a rooftop belfry incorporated in a pyramidal roofed tower. The cornice of the tower roof is enhanced with a series of factory-made brackets. Accompanying the church on the lot is its cemetery with burials dating back to the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

The ¼-acre lot on which the church stands was conveyed in 1854 by Joseph H. Bell and his wife Sarah to trustees, John Collins, James T. Wallace, Jonathan Vaughn, James K. Wheatley, and Thomas Truitt for a "*House that is now built thereon as a place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*"² The new church erected in 1879-80 was dedicated in February 1880, which was mentioned in a letter between George E. Wheatley and Irving S. R. Wheatley, which stated that "they have dedicated the new church at Galestown, they have the bell on it."³ George Wheatley's letter also stated the sad news that the first funeral had been held in the church the same month.

² Dorchester County Land Record, FGH 3/64, 10 October 1854, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Letter from George E. Wheatley to Irvin S. R. Wheatley, 27 February 1880, Collection of Gary Eskridge.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-753

Name Galestown United Methodist Church
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Galestown United Methodist Church

Map 36, Parcel 96

FGH 3/64

Joseph H. Bell & Sarah his wife

to

10.10.1854

John Collins, James T. Wallace, Jonathan Vaughn, James
K. Wheatley, and Thomas Truitt, Trustees

All that piece or parcel of land...situate in the village of Galestown

¼ acre....in trust for a House that is now built thereon as a place of
worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-753

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, The Peninsula Annual Conference, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 43,560 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 43,560 square feet

Quadrangle name Sharptown, Md., 1986

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

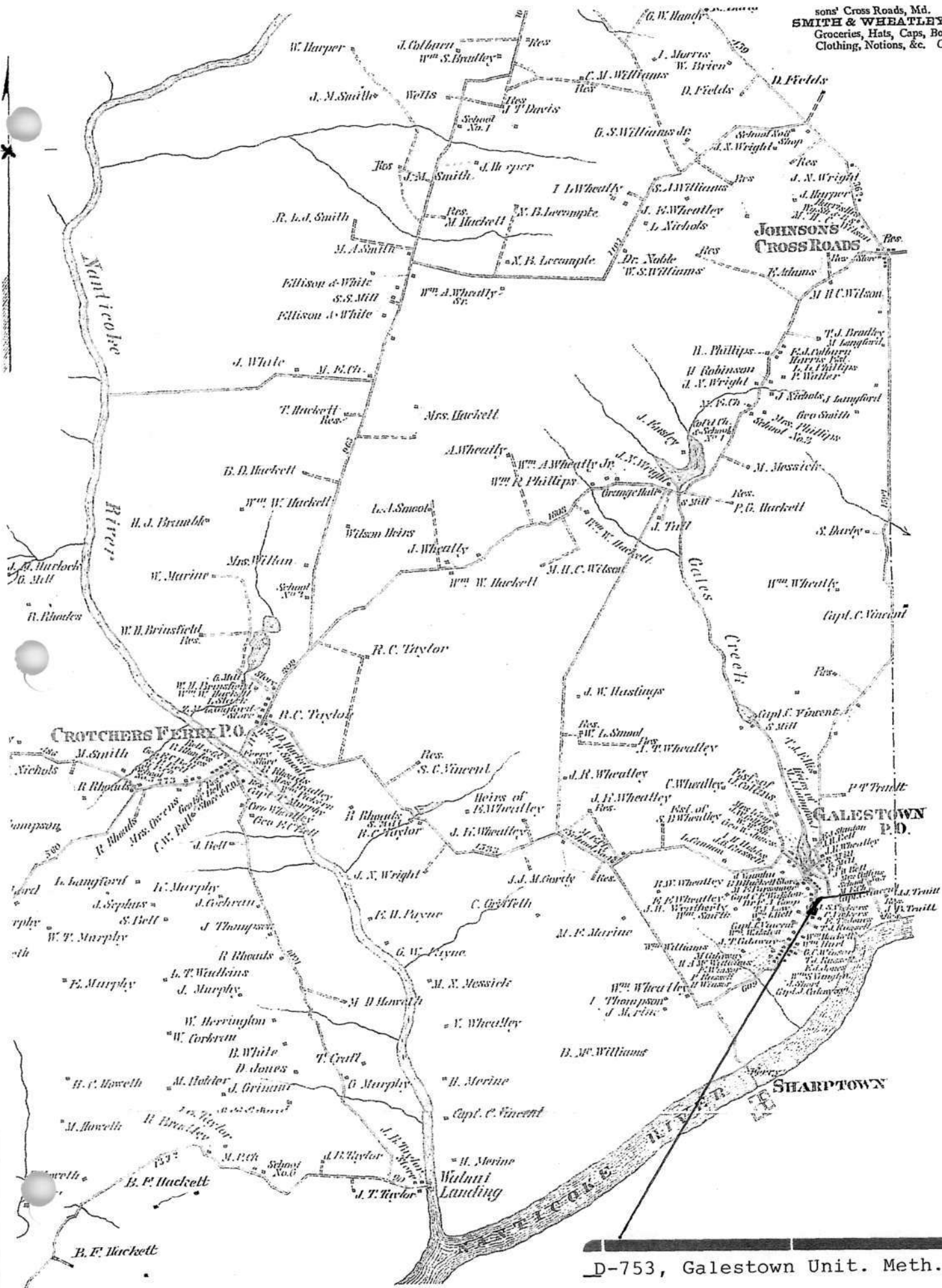
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/8/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

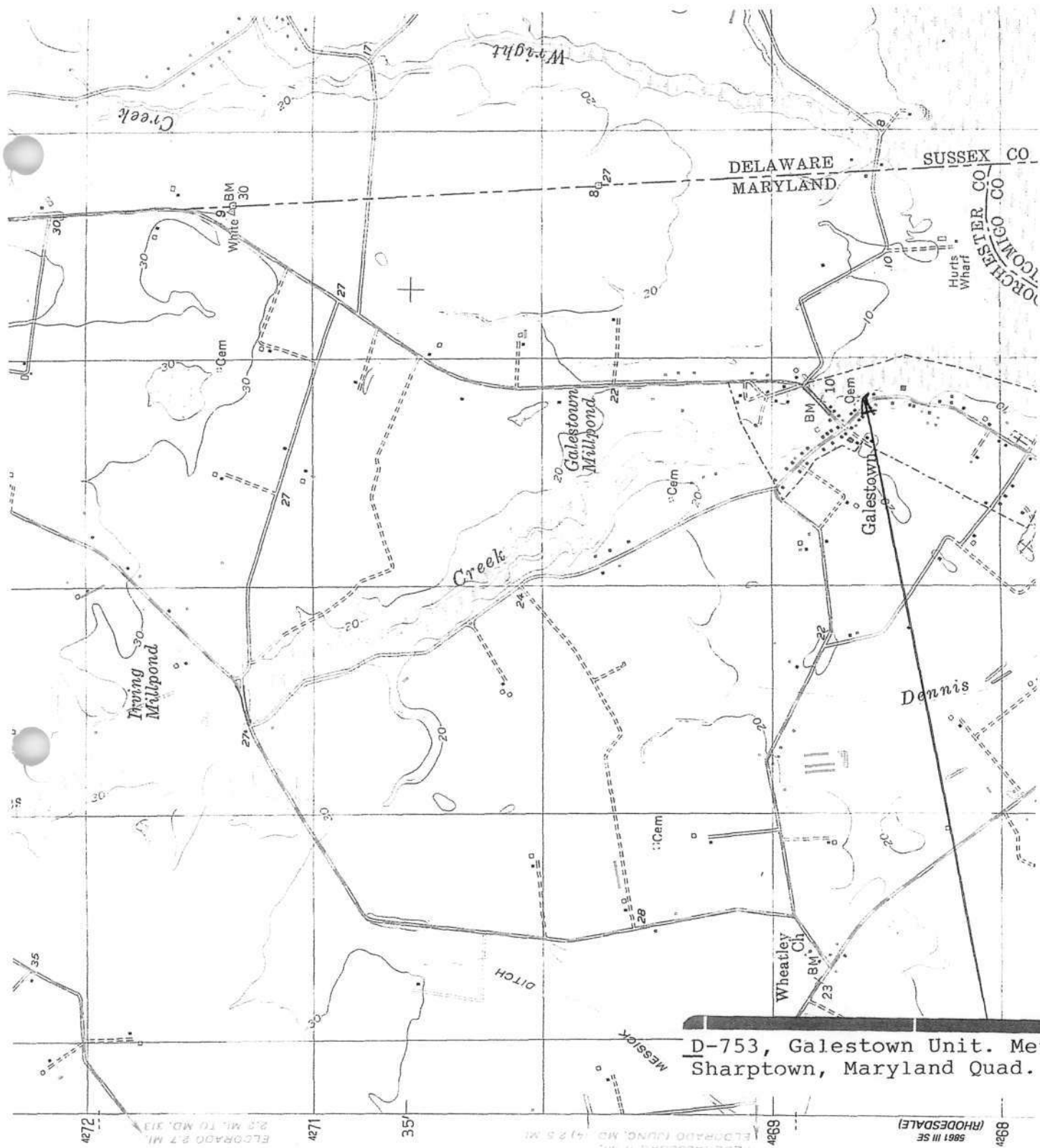
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

sons' Cross Roads, Md.
SMITH & WHEATLEY, Dealers in
 Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes.)
 Clothing, Notions, &c. Galestown P.



D-753, Galestown Unit. Meth. Chu.
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson-1877



D-753, Galestown Unit. Meth. Ch.
 Sharptown, Maryland Quad. 1986-



D-753

GALESTOWN METHODIST CHURCH
GALESTOWN, DORCHESTER Co., MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

2/08, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEB./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-753

GALESTOWN METHODIST CHURCH

GALESTOWN, DOXCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

2/08, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

N.E. / W.D. HISTORICAL TRUST